

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Has the Minister examined the service agreements of these officers ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The whole thing was considered when they were fixed in the various categories.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : The question is that the formula which has been applied is in complete violation of the agreement. I have asked whether the Minister has looked into the service agreements which guided the terms of these officers of these Class I Railways ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It cannot be simplified into a mere formula. It was an extremely complicated procedure and that was gone into and many of them have been fixed in Class I and many in Class II and even in Class III and this was done after considering the duties and responsibilities that they were performing in the *ex-State* Railways.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Was it not agreed that one of the representatives of the Rajasthan Government will be on the Committee which will examine this question according to the agreement signed ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't know about that but I can assure the hon. Member that if any bias was shown, the bias was in favour of putting them in Class I.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Is the Minister aware that all the Members of Parliament representing Jodhpur Division from the House of the People as well as the Council of States have submitted a memorandum giving facts and figures showing that they have violated not only statutory obligations but also legal obligations.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I know the hon. Member met the Minister for Railways several times and represented this matter and was also satisfactorily answered.

SHRI C. G. K. KRIDDIY : Satisfactorily ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is your opinion.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR : Is the Minister aware that not only a satisfactory answer was not given but as a matter of fact it is still under discussion ? It has not even been examined so far. The last letter from the Minister said that it is under examination and I don't know how he says that he has given a satisfactory answer.

RAILWAY COLONIES AT SILIGURI JUNCTION

*195. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the only source of water supply in the railway colonies at Siliguri Junction on the North-Eastern Railway is a number of shallow tube-wells and uncovered ring-wells ;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of these wells yield water heavily charged with mineral substances which adversely affect the health of the employees and spoils clothing; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy this state of affairs ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Yes, as far as domestic supply goes.

(b) The water supply is not very satisfactory.

(c) It is proposed to install a filtered water supply to the railway colony at Siliguri as soon as possible and the work has been commenced already.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know how much it will take to install this filtered water supply ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : About a lakh of rupees will be spent in the present year and the rest of the expenditure—it will cost about 5 lakhs will be in the next one or two years

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether any plan was submitted, before the construction of the railway colony there, to the Railway Board or the Railway Ministry?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : I don't know but it should have been.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : How long is it since this matter has been brought to the Government's notice?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We have taken action and the work is proceeding.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : How long is it since this matter has been brought to the notice of the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has no information.

SHRI B. RATH : How could a colony be established without water supply arrangements?

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : In view of the fact that the Government is satisfied that the water supply in Siliguri is not satisfactory, even after that Government is saying that it will take 3 more years to make sufficient water supplies available. How is it?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Because the material has to arrive before it can be completed. That is going to take some time.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : How can men live without water for 3 years?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is not as if they are without water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But it is not of the right quality.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Is that water not harmful?

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Will Government consider making any temporary arrangements for water supply?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : There are already some tube-wells which are very shallow of course, and 70 open

ring wells and from these water is *at* present available.

TEA GARDEN LABOUR

*196. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representations from any tea garden labour unions in Assam and West Bengal, requesting for the implementation of the Plantations Labour Act; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take on those representations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) Yes. Representations have been received from some labour unions requesting implementation of the Plantations Labour Act.

(b) The official team on tea industry has recommended *inter alia* that implementation of the Act should be postponed for a period of two years, so far as the tea industry is concerned. A tripartite conference is being held at Calcutta on the 19th and 20th December 1952 to consider the team's recommendations concerning labour.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether the Government has taken any decision?

SHRI ABID ALI : With regard to the recommendations of the official team no decision has been taken. It will be considered at the tripartite conference about which I have just made a reference.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government is putting any suggestions before the tripartite conference in this connection?

SHRI ABID ALI : Government wants to know the reaction of the representatives of the workers before coming to a final decision.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : May I know whether Government stands by the assurance given by the Finance